

## Message Text

SECRET

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13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 105987

R 080437Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2541

S E C R E T BANGKOK 8885

FOR EA - ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: U.S. FORCES WITHDRAWAL

1. IT CONTINUES TO BE OBVIOUS THAT SENI AND THE NEW LEADERSHIP ARE CONSIDERING THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND EVEN BEFORE THEY HAVE ASSUMED OFFICE. THE PAPERS REPORT THAT SENI MET YESTERDAY WITH GENERAL KRIT AND ALTHOUGH A POSSIBLE ROLE FOR KRIT IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS PROBABLY DISCUSSED, IT SEEMS VERY LIKELY THAT THE AMERICAN QUESTION WAS REVIEWED.

2. NATURALLY WE CANNOT DISCUSS ANY NEW PROPOSALS WITH THE RTG UNTIL FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN WASHINGTON. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME LATITUDE, HOWEVER, TO REVEAL INFORMALLY AND VERY SELECTIVELY THE GENERAL SCOPE OF OUR DESIDERATA AND THE MANNER IN WHICH WE BELIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES MIGHT BE MET. IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE, FOR EXAMPLE, IF SENI AND COMPANY GOT THE IDEA WE WANT A LARGE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AT RAMASUN WHEREAS WHAT THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERING IS A SMALL CIVILIAN PRESENCE. SIMILARLY THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD TRANSIT RIGHTS AND RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS MIGHT BE MORE FORTHCOMING IF THEY HAD A SENSE OF THE ASUTERE AND DISCREET STYLE WHICH WE HAVE IN MIND.

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3. I AM NOT THINKING OF RUSHING IN TO SENI IN THE

NEXT FEW HOURS, AND I AM MINDFUL OF THE RISK OF GETTING  
MFA'S BACK UP BY MANOEUVERING IN A WAY THAT SMACKS OF  
CONSPIRING WITH THE THAI MILITARY. ON THE OTHER HAND  
IT WOULD BE MALADROIT NOT TO TAKE WHATEVER OPPORTUNITIES  
WE CAN TO GIVE SENI A SENSE OF WHAT WE THINK MIGHT BE  
WORKED OUT.

4. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES I WOULD NOT BE REQUESTING  
INSTRUCTIONS ON A MATTER OF THIS KIND, BUT GIVEN  
WASHINGTON'S CONTROL OVER THIS WHOLE QUESTION I AM  
RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY ORIENTAL MOVES HERE WITHOUT AT  
LEAST A PALE GREEN LIGHT FROM YOU.  
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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